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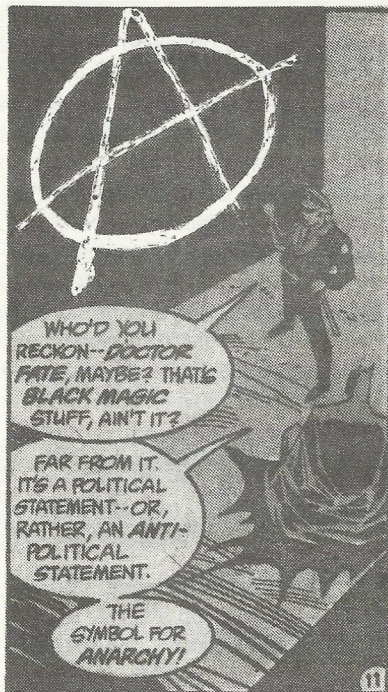
Toronto's Anarchist Bi-Weekly

Ecomedia

BULLETIN

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self-
defence: not a
sport, a
necessity.



Batman vs. Anarchy

One couldn't help noticing the huge circled 'A' on the cover of a recent issue of Detective Comics, home of Batman. It seems that Batman has found a new rival in the character "Anarky", a masked, caped crusader who wears a big hat, carries little round smoke bombs (appropriately painted with a circled 'A') and a big stick. The character "Anarky" is a self-styled anarchist vigilante, who reads

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Police Shooting Paralyzes Black Woman

Organize Against Organized Violence

There is a growing climate of repression, fear and violence in Toronto. The cause is organized violence - not youth gangs, the Mafia or an increase in individual mania, but the police force.

Many communities and sectors are faced with police violence and harassment. The Black and Native communities historically, all over North America have faced police violence, assassination and repression in an attempt to crush their organizing against racism and conditions of poverty. As a preventive measure to instill sufficient fear and powerlessness to prevent organized fighting of racism.

Women face police negligence in the case of rape and battery reporting, violence, as police are rapists too (ie: the case of the late Robin Voce), and harassment if women engage in certain professions - ie: prostitution. Lesbians and gay men face police violence, raids, and inaction on queer bashing. Poor whites (ie: Gardiner Meyers) do not escape police vio-

lence. We are all familiar with police brutality in the crushing of strikes and demonstrations - we were treated to a brief viewing of Metro police's real potential force at last years Economic Summit.

But today, in the heyday of the "War on Drugs" racist police harassment and violence, particularly against the Black community is rife. Blacks in the housing projects, on the streets, and

(cont. on page 2)

EMERGENCY APPEAL

The Teme-Augama Anishnabai people have started blockading the Red Squirrel logging road in an attempt to assert jurisdiction on their lands. For those willing to help them in their land claim struggle, both food, money, transportation and people are needed to maintain this blockade. Phone Verna or Jimmy at 588-2712 to get involved.

Organize Against Organized Violence (cont. from page 1)

in cars are facing an increase in this police surveillance and harassment. Parents face the kind of fear found in times of war, wondering whether their children will return home in one piece. The War on Drugs is a smokescreen for a real war on the poor, in effect a race war. The October 26 shooting of Sophia Cook, a young, Black woman is another offensive from the State side. Cook was shot while strapped in to the front seat of a car, unarmed. She is the third Black person shot by Toronto area cops in 15 months and the only one to survive. Her attacker, constable Cameron Durham, showing the deep heartfelt concern Metro's finest are known for, was heard to ask another cop "Am I in trouble?" after what cops claim was an "accidental shooting".

In this climate, the Black community is fighting back and an organized community response is mounting. On November 5 the Black Women's Collective put a call out to the broader Women's movement to stand in solidarity with the Black community in a more organized and permanent way. Non-Black groups must meet the challenge to fight police violence not just when a spectacle, such as a shooting occurs. The response must reflect and fight the daily reality of racist and police violence. Out of the November 5 meeting the Ad Hoc Women's Coalition Against Racist and Police Violence was formed. Below is its joint statement:

We condemn the police shooting of Sophia Cook, the latest Black person to be shot by metro police. We do not accept the excuses by Metro police that this shooting was accidental. We

condemn the police killings of Lester Donaldson and Michael Wade Lawson. In the last fifteen months three Black people have been shot by police in the city, two of them fatally, and the Black community in Toronto has had to live in a climate of fear and concern for their lives from the police and the justice system as a whole.

We see this as part of the pattern of racist and police violence across the country. This is evident in the Donald Marshall inquiry in Nova Scotia, the Manitoba justice inquiry (the deaths of J.J. Harper and Helen Betty Osbourne), the inquiry into relations between police and Native people in Southern Alberta, and the police shooting in Montreal of Anthony Griffin. Ongoing racial police harassment and injustice is a fact of life for Black people, Native people and other People of Colour across the country.

Since the late seventies when the Black community called for justice in the killings of Albert Johnson and Buddy Evans by Toronto police, no action has been taken to root out racism in the police force, or to bring appropriate justice in these cases, or to protect the Black community from further police violence. Not a single police officer has been convicted of any wrongdoing in these crimes.

Women, working people, gays and lesbians also suffer from acts of police violence and systemic injustice...

We demand an end to racist and police violence.

We demand the immediate establishment of an independent civilian review body with broad representation selected by and from the communities affected by police violence.

We demand that traffic policeman Durham who shot Sophia Cook be suspended immediately.

We demand that traffic policeman Durham be charged with attempted murder.

The coalition and the Black Action Defense Committee have called for a demonstration against the shooting of Sophia Cook, citing the above demands, on Wednesday, November 15, 5:30 pm outside the Police Headquarters, 40 College St. All are welcome to the demonstration. All women who share a commitment to fighting racism are welcome to join the coalition - for more information call 538-1108 or 533-6135.

Paying the Price

Yes, Ecomedia still needs money. In order to give you a sense of our costs, we're asking people to "sponsor" a portion of an issue. An entire issue is approximately \$125. Sponsoring one page is approx. \$30, two pages is \$60. The alternative is to subscribe (1 year/26 issues is \$15), which helps us too. If you've already subscribed, don't forget to renew that sub! If enough people come through on this appeal we will be able to afford to keep Ecomedia running and growing. To our knowledge there's nothing quite like this in North America (a bi-weekly anarchist free paper and news service); doesn't it seem worthwhile to keep that alive? Send your sponsorship to the address on the front.

Lubicons Confront PetroCan Theft

As of November 1, 1989, federally-owned Petro Canada has exactly 30 days to pay up or get off Lubicon lands, according to a letter sent to Brian Mulroney by Lubicon Chief Bernard Ominayak. Petro Canada has been operating oil wells and a pipeline on unceded Lubicon Cree territory for over 10 years now, extracting approximately 900 barrels per day, without paying a single cent in royalties or permits.

The Lubicon Lake Indian Nation's traditional hunting and trapping lifestyle was destroyed in the early 80's when oil development really hit the northern Alberta lands. Since then the community has been hit hard by being forced onto welfare and all the social problems poverty produces. They have been fighting a fierce land claim battle to regain control over lands never ceded to Canada. PetroCanada's activities violate Lubicon jurisdiction over these territories.

In a move to assert their jurisdiction, the Nation has officially given notice to both the federal government and all oil companies operating on their land that, in the words of the Nation, they have until November 30 "to obtain retroactive operating permits and leases from the Lubicon people, and to make arrangements for the payment of royalties on resources extracted — both past and future. Approval of such retroactive operating permits will be subject to compliance with Lubicon environmental protection and wildlife management laws ... and may be cancelled for violation of said laws. Failure to meet any of these conditions will make involved projects subject to removal as unauthorized develop-

ments on unceded Lubicon territory."

Hopes for a negotiated settlement with the federal government were dashed last January when the feds broke off talks with a "take-it-or-leave-it" offer which they knew in advance was unacceptable to the Lubicon people. Since then their position has been nothing short of deliberate hostility and attempted divide-and rule tactics, all of which have been unsuccessful in trampling down this 450-member Native community. Now the community is taking an active role in its defense, proposing direct action (dismantling of Petro Canada installations) and challenging the right of the federal government to rule over its territory.

PetroCanada has responded by

saying they will ignore the Nation's demand, saying they follow Canadian laws, and that they've done everything in their power for a settlement of the land claim. People familiar with the situation may indeed be wondering what in hell they're talking about, but they have yet to elaborate on that.

"There's of course nothing that the Lubicon people can do to force you or your government to conduct Canadian affairs with decency, honour and integrity," says Ominayak in his Oct. 31 letter. "However if we can't protect our legitimate aboriginal land rights through a negotiated settlement with the government of Canada, there are things which we can and will do to enforce our rightful jurisdiction over our uncended traditional territory — starting with illegitimate oil activity ..."

BATMAN VS. ANARCHY (Cont from page 1)

letters to the editor in the local paper to hear what irks the people, and then avenges them in fairly violent ways.

However the character is not entirely unsympathetic. In this issue he gave a smack dealer a shock (literally) with his electrified cane and left him with the message "I deal drugs, I kill kids" spraypainted on the wall over his head. His next target was the owner of a highly pollutant factory, whose head he shoves into a bucket full of the factory's effluence (which the owner claims is safe), while declaring on videotape "If you are an enemy of the people, Anarchy will destroy you". The industrialist suffers toxic poisoning. Batman is faced with a dilemma: Anarchy is doing his job, yet Batman feels he has to wipe

out the competition (not surprising: the rich have always claimed a monopoly on violence, hence the media's campaign against "terrorists" when we react against oppression).

But anarchy is not about vigilantism. We believe that people must defend themselves against oppression using whatever means necessary, but are firm believers in community control and collective resistance, not the individualist solution proposed by vigilantes. It's amusing that a mass-produced comic like that would feel there's enough interest in the circled 'A's to sell comics; while this is indicative of a rise in interest in anarchy (at least in what's perceived as anarchy), we'll be happier when the real people get more attention than stereotypes.

GOVERNMENT SCREWS TAXPAYERS

Douglas Fisher, one of the Toronto Scum's rightwing columnists, has published statistics (1-11-89 p11) which show that the federal government's deficit (the difference between the amount of money it spends each year and the amount it takes in) rose steadily between 1980 and 1985, then began to decline each year although it is still higher than in 1980. This, he and the government maintain, justifies and makes inevitable the government's various tax grabs and reductions in

social programs.

This is a superficially impressive argument, and unless progressive forces in Canada can come up with an alternative they're going to lose the battle against the general sales tax the same way they lost the free trade debate, by failing to propose a convincing alternative. In the case of free trade, the problem they failed to address was what would happen to our economy if a protectionist USA closed its door to our products. There was general talk of more trade

with other countries, but nobody did the research or marshalled the convincing arguments to show that we could offset the loss in revenue from U.S. trade. So we accepted free trade on the USA's terms.

The main flaw in the Wilson-Fisher argument lies in its assumptions that if taxes are to be raised it must be the workers and not the corporations who bear this increase, and that if the government is to spend less money it must be social programs rather than bureaucracy that gets the axe. Unfortunately, neither opposition party is any more interested than are the Conservatives in reducing bureaucracy or challenging the corporations' control of our economy (the NDP still has lots of anti-corporate rhetoric, but no real alternatives to propose.) So alternatives to tax hikes and service cuts will not come from parliament. For the same reason, none of the parties can challenge the corporate commitment to a growth economy by supporting serious steps to protect the environment.

Consequently, both living standards and the quality of the environment are going to decline steadily in the coming years. This creates a vacuum in which the base of support for anarchist ideas can broaden, but only if anarchists do a lot more thinking and research than they have to date. We have some pretty tough questions to answer ourselves, such as how to reconcile a diminishing role for the state with the need to control human activities to the extent needed to protect the environment. And generalities about teaching people to be less greedy won't do. To gain credibility, we need concrete proposals.

Days of Our Lives

Weekly occupations of offices will be carried out by an independent group of activists in support of the Innu of Nitassinan and against the NATO base in Labrador. For those interested in taking part please phone 535-5731 and leave a message.

Friday Nov. 17:

8 p.m.: Crossing Cultures, a festival of music, dance, theatre and comedy with wimmin performers from several countries (also November 18 and 19, with workshops noon to 6 p.m. Festival pass \$30, single concert tickets \$8 advance, \$10 at door. St. Paul's Centre at Trinity, 427 Bloor St. W., tickets from Toronto Women's Bookstore, 73 Harbord and ANDPVA, 9 St. Joseph. For more info 925-6568

Wed. Nov. 22, 7:15pm to 8:30pm: Irish Freedom Association holds a vigil outside Maple Leaf Gardens in memory of Irish civilians killed by the British Army in the north of Ireland. British Military Bands are playing at the Gardens that night. For more info: 699-3632

Tuesday Nov. 28:

8 p.m.: Between the Lines and The

Toronto Board of Education present Bell Hooks, the noted writer and activist, speaking on her most recent book, "Talking Back: thinking feminist, thinking Black", and on the meaning of feminist consciousness, political organizing, and overcoming white supremacy in the women's movement. Euclid Theatre, 394 Euclid. Free admission.

If you want to add your events to this calendar send them to Ecomedia at least 2 weeks in advance or phone the anarchist hotline 535-5731 and leave your message.

Anarchist Town Hall Meeting: After a short break, the town hall meetings have reappeared. This meeting will be a chance for anti-authoritarians who are organizing in various different communities to come together and share news and lessons. Also an opportunity to plan future activities, find new projects to hook in to, and pick up the latest anarchist magazines and books. Everyone welcome (except cops and reporters). A date and place hasn't yet been confirmed. News will be on the phoneline at 535-5731.